

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 04012 131405Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00
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O 131350Z APR 78
FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIAE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, US, NI, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SIMPLIFICATION OF OPIC APPROVAL PROCESS
FROM AMBASSADOR EASUM

1. HENRY RICHARDONS' S REPORT ON CARTER/OBASANJO
APRIL 2 CONVERSATION ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS INDICATES
THAT AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSION OF DELAYS ON OPIC APPROVALS
AND "THIRTY-ONE PENDING APPLICATIONS," OBASANJO TURNED TO
ME AND SAID "DON, SEND THESE DIRECTLY TO ME THROUGH EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS; OTHER POINTS OR PROBLEMS CAN BE TAKEN UP BY THE
STUDY GROUP."

2. WHILE IT IS NOT FULLY CLEAR WHAT OBASANJO HAD IN MIND,
HIS REMARK WOULD SEEM TO GIVE US A GOOD OPENING FOR
POTENTIALLY USEFUL MOVES WITH MEA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF
NIGERIAN WORKING GROUP MEMBERS FOR US TALKS. I BELIEVE
EMBASSY SHOULD SEND OFFICIAL NOT TO MEA THAT DESCRIBES
OUR PROPOSED OPIC SIMPLIFICATION PROCEDURE AND OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF STATUS OF FMG CONSIDERATION OF
IT, REITERATES OUR INTEREST IN EARLY FMG RESPONSE, AND
APPENDS LIST OF PENDING INVESTMENT APPLICATIONS. NOTE
WOULD REFER TO OBASANJO'S INTEREST AS EXPRESSED IN MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT AND WOULD REQUEST THAT NOTE BE BROUGHT
TO HIS ATTENTION.

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3 CAHILL MAY WISH TO PASS COPIES OF NOTE TO RELEVANT
MINISTRIES. FALAE IN CABINET OFFICE MIGHT BE ANOTHER
GOOD BASE TO TOUCH.

4 GIVE THOUGHT TO HOW NOTE MIGHT REFER TO UPCOMING
WORKING GROUP CONSIDERATION OF OPIC QUESTION. SEEMS
TO ME THAT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OUR NOTE RAISES IT,
SITUATION MAY BE RIPE FOR US TO PULL OFF AN OPIC VICTORY

THAT WE WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN ATTRIBUTING TO THE WORKING
GROUP MEETINGS LATER THIS MONTH. KEY TO SUCCESS WILL
BE EXTENT TO WHICH FMG, HOPEFULLY GOADED BY OBASANJO'S
PERSONAL INTEREST, WILL BE ABLE TO DO THE NECESSARY INTER-
DEPARTMENTAL STAFF WORK BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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